

# **BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM P. GAST**

## ***Chief of Staff Kentucky Air National Guard***

Brigadier General Gast began his military career in September 1946 when he entered the U.S. Army. He attained the rank of SSG before being discharged in September 1948. He enlisted in the Kentucky Air National Guard on 22 September 1948 and served as Intelligence Specialist in the grade of TSgt until the unit was recalled to active duty during the Korean Conflict on 10 October 1950. He served as an Intelligence Specialist on active duty until 27 May 1951. On 28 May 1951 he was appointed an Aviation Cadet and completed Basic Pilot Training at Spence APB, Georgia during 1951 and advanced Pilot Training at Bryan AFB, Texas during June 1952. At that time he accepted a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force Reserves.

He transferred to the Kentucky Air National Guard in September 1952. He served as Fighter Pilot, Flight Commander, Intelligence Officer, Air Targets Officer, and Intelligence Staff Officer. In January 1968 General Gast began 16 months of Extended Active Duty (EAD) during the Pueblo Crisis Call-Up. During this period he performed duty at Shewmaker ANG Base, Louisville, Kentucky and at Richards-Gebaur APB, Missouri serving as an Intelligence Officer. Upon release from Active Duty in June 1969 he was appointed Commander, 123d Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. General Gast served as Commander until September 1974 when he was transferred to Headquarters, Kentucky Air National Guard, Boone National Guard Center, Frankfort, Kentucky. He was appointed as NAP, Director of Operations, where he served until 31 August 1976. He was federally recognized as Colonel on 14 September 1974. On 1 September 1976 he was appointed Chief of Staff, Kentucky Air National Guard where he currently serves. His federal recognition as Brigadier General is 2 November 1977.

**DECORATIONS AND AWARDS:** Meritorious Service Medal; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award; Good Conduct Medal; American Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Air Force Longevity Service Award; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon

**SCHOOLS:** Saint Xavier High School, Louisville, Kentucky, 1946; B.C.E., University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, 1954; Basic Pilot Training, Spence APB, GA., 1951; Advanced Pilot Training, Bryan AFB, Texas, 1952; Air Command and Staff College (Correspondence), 1974; Course 6600, Logistics Management, Air University (ECI), 1974; C-131D Initial Qualification Ground School, Andrews APB, Maryland, 1975; Air War College (ECI) , 1981.

**CIVIL AFFILIATIONS:** National Guard Association of the United States; National Guard Association of Kentucky; American Society of Professional Engineers; Knights of Columbus; Young Men's Christian Association; Propeller Club of Louisville

**CIVILIAN OCCUPATION:** Division Manager, Hall Contracting Company, Louisville, Kentucky

(June 1982)